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**CRABTREE VALLEY  
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**THE FIRST TEN YEARS**

**1970 — 1980**



**by Susan Ray**



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BAPTIST CHURCH**

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**Written in May, 1985**

**by Susan Ray**

**Chairman of the History Committee**

**for the Fifteenth Anniversary**

**of the Church**

**September 29, 1985**

Cover sketch by Rick Boggs.

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## AUTHOR'S NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Crabtree Valley Baptist Church is unusual in that it has elected Historians or a History Committee since its very beginning. Those who have served in this capacity in past years are: Alice Tarlton, Johnnie Grubbs, Nellie Kearney, Jack Porter, Leon and Betsy Shaw. The present committee members who have served with me since October, 1981 are: Bob Crumpler, Jean Glosson, and Ted Williams. I wish to express my appreciation to them.

I appreciate the efforts of the church clerks, Jack Porter and Bob Crumpler, to keep proper records of the church's actions.

I wish to thank my four "research assistants" who helped me prepare for writing this history: Anne Barden, Michele Cherry, Jean Andrus, and my mother Charlene Ray. I also thank Myrna Brockwell and Joe Clary and his staff for their help with the manuscript.

Finally, *a special word of appreciation* must be said to Jean Glosson. Without the bulletins, clippings, lists, and countless other items she has carefully collected through the years, no full record of Crabtree's history would exist. She has spent hours assembling the History Albums and other files that are a treasure for the church now and in the future.



## A CHURCH IS BORN

It might be said that Crabtree Valley Baptist Church began over a cup of coffee, as Roy Smith and Ted Williams discussed the need for a church in the newly-burgeoning northwest section of Raleigh. Of course, that was but one of many discussions in 1970 through which the church came into being.

Foreseeing this need, the Raleigh Baptist Association had bought in 1963 a piece of property at the corner of Leesville Road and North Hills Drive. Then they waited for the Lord to bring together the right people at the right time.

Roy and Ted were two of those people. They and others who worked for the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina talked about the Association's desire for a new congregation in this fast-growing area. At St. John's Baptist Church the need was brought to the attention of the members, which included the Smiths and the Joe Clary family. Doris Smith urged her husband to go talk with Robert Costner, Director of Missions for the Raleigh Baptist Association.

After meeting with him, Roy and others spent numerous Saturdays placing questionnaires in mail-boxes all over North and Northwest Raleigh. It was hoped that those interested in a new Baptist fellowship would return the tear-off portion. Throughout the spring and summer of 1970, contacts, discussions, and

informal meetings continued.

On the last Sunday of September, about thirty people met to officially organize what was called, for the time being, "the new Baptist work." Hayes Barton Church had been asked by the Association to sponsor this new group. Ronda Robbins, pastor of Apex Baptist Church, spoke. The minutes record:

*A group of interested people met in the J. W. York School in Brookhaven on Sunday afternoon of September 27, 1970, with the Missions Committee and others of the Raleigh Baptist Association and representatives of Hayes Barton Baptist Church. The group was organized as a new Baptist work in Northwest Raleigh. Eleven people came forward declaring their intentions of becoming members of the new work. (Wayne and Jane Brooks; Joe, Katie, and Kent Clary; Roy, Doris, Roy, Jr., and Ginger Smith; Ted and Janet Williams.) These met and elected Ted Williams as Clerk and Treasurer. The group voted to give 10% to the Cooperative Program and 2% through the Raleigh Baptist Association of all regular receipts.*

The first Sunday morning services were held a week later, on October 4, with nineteen present. Ted Williams brought the message. Most of those who had committed themselves the previous week joined by letter; but one, Wayne Brooks, came on profession of faith. An offering of \$97 was received in rather unusual offering plates. As Doris and Roy Smith reviewed all the preparations for that first service on their way to the school building, they realized they had not borrowed any offering plates. So Roy rushed back home for some



First four families: (Back Row) Wayne and Jane Brooks, Katie and Joe Clary, Roy and Doris Smith. (Front Row) Kent Clary, Roy Smith Jr., Ginger Smith, Tracy Smith. (Ted and Janet Williams not shown.)

of Doris's pie pans!

The second Sunday's emergency was the lack of hymnals. Leroy Martin, Jr., a member of Hayes Barton, hurried back to the church to borrow these for the group. On Dec. 20, Hayes Barton voted officially to sponsor this new work.

By the end of the year several more had joined the first four families: Alice and Russell Tarlton, Beulah and Lawrence Peek, George Jewell and family, Marian and Marse Grant and daughter Carol, Louise Gargis (Mrs. Willis Strickland), Johnnie and Bill Grubbs, Nellie and Bud Kearney and son Hilliard, Pam Allsbrook, Betty and Rick Boggs, Helen and Carl Southard and daughter Melody, and Linda Warren.

Because the early members had held responsibilities in their former churches, plans had been made deliber-

ately to begin this new fellowship at the beginning of a new church year. Everyone who joined was immediately given a job. Even the children, like seven-year-old Tracy Smith, helped distribute hymnals and take up the offering.

The first full business meeting was held on Sunday evening, November 8, in the Smith's home. Among the eleven actions taken, the first was to name this new Baptist work *Crabtree Valley Baptist Church*. They voted to accept the property owned by the Association for their future location and to seek maximum aid from the Baptist State Convention. Roy Smith and Ted Williams were asked to write a constitution and by-laws in preparation for the constitution service that they hoped to observe in early 1971. They also agreed that from then on business meetings would be held every third Sunday evening in the school lunchroom so that the meeting might be preceded by a covered-dish supper. Joe Clary once reaffirmed this long-standing custom by saying that the church should always eat before a business meeting, "as it seems to make us agreeable!"

In the December business meeting, following supper and a program of carols, a Pulpit Supply Committee was named. During the church's early months, the pulpit was filled not only by some of its own members (Smith, Williams, Grant, and Wayne Tyner) but also by Robert Costner and numerous members of the Baptist State Convention staff. These included: Guy Cain (later a charter member), Burrell Lucas, Bob Bruhn, Robert Mullinax, Richard Smith, Nathan Brooks, Luther Osment and General Secretary-Treasurer Perry Crouch.

On the first Sunday of 1971, the attendance was 50 and the offering \$209.32. In a called meeting after the

morning service that day, a Pulpit Committee was elected to begin the important task of finding a pastor. It consisted of Joe Clary (chairman), Wayne Brooks, Johnnie Grubbs, George Jewell, Alice Tarlton, and Ted Williams.

At the regular January meeting, they discussed the characteristics they wanted in a pastor as well as the salary and benefits they could offer. Moderator Roy Smith appointed a Nominating Committee to nominate committees for the nursery, music, finances, and other areas as needed. On a motion by Marian Grant, it was voted to begin regular Sunday evening activities in February, with “interest groups for every age-group... rather than the traditional Sunday night activities.” And the treasurer’s report listed \$2000 deposited in a savings account to begin the long process toward that dreamed-of day when the church would have its own building.

By March the church had taken over from the Association the responsibility for paying the rent for the use of the school building, which was almost \$300 a month. Also, until in actual use for religious purposes, the church’s future building site was subject to taxes. The lot aid received for several years from the Baptist State Convention helped a great deal with these expenses. Although the young group assumed responsibility for itself from the beginning, they keenly recognized and appreciated the help fellow Baptists gave them, both in terms of money and people. Reflecting on this, Roy Smith later said, “We are in reality a product of Baptist life,...and it’s important for subsequent membership to be aware of the heritage we have at this point.”

Crabtree Valley Baptist Church was constituted on April 4, 1971. Following an Easter service led by the



choir, lunch was served for the 72 present, both members and guests. At 2 p.m. the Constitution Service began. Henry Lee Bridges, chairman of the deacons of Hayes Barton Baptist Church, led in prayer: "On this day of joy, opportunity, and privilege, Lord, share with us our joy, help us to see our opportunity, and inspire us to magnify our privileges."

Dr. T. L. Cashwell, pastor of Hayes Barton, said his church had been honored to act as sponsor for this new body, noting, "No church so honored has had so little to do!"

He then challenged the members to make their new congregation a place of: (1) Prayer (2) Poverty -- spiritual poverty that resides in a deep dissatisfaction with what you are (3) Praise -- not so much through words as through attitudes and actions (4) Power -- to help all who need it in different ways and (5) Prophetic Preaching. "Then," he said, "it will become the scene of a new Pentecost."

Fifty-six charter members signed the roll that day. (Charter membership was left open for a month; and on May 2, Ron Jeffers became the 57th and last charter member.) In a joyfully solemn conclusion to the brief service, the members came forward and repeated their Litany of Constitution.

\* \* \*

Among other sources, information in this chapter came from: Bulletins and Minutes of the Church; History Album Volume I (1970-73); Tape of the Constitution Service; Tape of C.V.B.C. History Discussion (1970-75).



## THE YEARS IN THE SCHOOL

The bulletin for May 30, 1971, featured a picture of the United States Capitol. For Crabtree it was particularly fitting on that Memorial Day weekend, because their speaker was Dr. Edward H. Pruden, who served virtually in the shadow of the Capitol for 32 years as pastor of First Baptist Church, Washington, D. C. He had retired and was living in Raleigh near relatives while serving as chaplain at Meredith College. Immediately Dr. Pruden seemed to be the man Crabtree needed for interim pastor since it looked as though finding a pastor would take a while. He agreed in July but, due to previous commitments, could not begin preaching regularly until late August.

Meanwhile, Crabtree enjoyed a busy summer. The tradition of recognizing the church's high school graduates began with Anne Porter, Lois Tyner, and Carol Grant. Carol, born with abnormally short arms and legs, was one of Crabtree's liveliest, most "spunky" members!

Twelve children from Crabtree attended Vacation Bible School at Hayes Barton Baptist Church. There also, on June 6, at 7 p.m., the congregation's first baptismal service took place. Roy Smith baptized Wayne Brooks and his son Steve, Philip Jewell, Mark Jeffers, Shirley Johnson, and Kimberly Powell.

For the summer it was decided to hold Sunday

evening activities in homes and other places cooler than the school! On July 11, there was an outing to the new Camp Mundo Vista near Asheboro. In August a week-end was planned at the Baptist Assembly at Caswell. Several had gone ahead to make preparations when word came of an approaching hurricane. Reluctantly they cancelled the plans and left - and the hurricane left too!

Through the fall the church was impressed and blessed by the ministry of Dr. and Mrs. Pruden. When told that the Smith children thought Dr. Pruden was a very good preacher, Mrs. Pruden replied, "Ed will be very pleased, because on Saturdays he gives me his sermon to read and asks if there is anything in it that an eight-year-old couldn't understand." Dr. Pruden is also a hymn-writer; his "Anniversary Hymn" appears in the *Baptist Hymnal, 1956 Edition*. He honored Crabtree by writing a Christmas hymn dedicated to it. That made the Christmas of 1971 special - as did a play written and produced by the young people of the church.

Throughout 1971 the Pulpit Committee had been diligently going about the task of finding the right pastor for Crabtree. In an early church discussion, the question was raised, "How much pastor can we afford?" With the small group's limited resources, it seemed it might be necessary to look for a semi-retired or part-time person.

"No," said big, gentle Carl Southard. With the potential Crabtree had to be developed and the community it had to reach, he said, "We cannot afford anything less than the best."

In January of 1971 members of the Pulpit Committee had made their first trip to hear a preacher, a man

named Charles Stevens. He was a graduate of Mars Hill College and Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and for three years had been pastor of First Baptist Church, Swansboro, N. C. Committee chairman Joe Clary recalls wondering how they would know when they found the right person.

“You’ll just know,” assured Ted Williams.

On the way home from that first visit they felt they did indeed know; and, although they heard others in the following months, the conviction persisted. By summer they had narrowed their considerations to two men, and then to just this one - Charles Stevens.

(Since he disliked the terms Reverend or Brother, and since Crabtree members go by first names primarily, he came to be called simply “Charles.”)

It was not until the Committee’s second visit to Swansboro on July 18 that they told Charles why they were there. They shared a description of what the church wanted in a pastor and what they could offer. At first, Charles says, he felt a reluctance to consider a call to such a seemingly uncertain situation. But, with a visit to Raleigh in early August, he and his wife Sara sensed the excitement of the group through the Committee’s members and began to feel the attraction of the new church’s challenge. Gradually the Stevenses grew to feel that Crabtree was God’s place for them.

Having lost the opportunity to meet the full church at Caswell because of the hurricane threat, the Stevenses came to Raleigh on September 19. Charles preached to the congregation and the family joined in a fellowship luncheon. In a called business session on October 3, 1971, the Pulpit Committee recommended, “That the Crabtree Valley Baptist Church call Rev. Charles Stevens to be its pastor. Mr. George Jewell



Charles E. Stevens, pastor 1972-80.

made a motion to this effect, and Mr. J. B. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously."

At the November business meeting, Joe Clary announced, "We've got a preacher comin'!" To enable the Stevenses to buy a home, the deacons recommended lending them the amount for their down-payment at no interest. (Each subsequent Christmas a portion of their debt to the church was cancelled.) Church members painted and arranged the house at 717 Northbrook Drive for the arrival of Charles and Sara, two-year-old Janel, seven-month-old Elaine, and foster daughter Teresa. (During their years at Crabtree, the Stevenses had three foster daughters - - Teresa Norris, Kim Maynor, and Heidi Gentry.)

In December, 1971, the fellowship bid farewell to the Prudens with a small token of their great appreciation. And on January 2, 1972, they welcomed their new pastor for his first Sunday with them. A special candlelight communion service was observed that evening. The next Sunday a reception was given for him and his family at the home of Katie and Joe Clary.

During this period Crabtree was in the process of developing its structure. The Adult Sunday School Class had been divided into classes for men, women, and couples. Before the Constitution Service, officers and committees had been elected and a \$15,000 budget adopted for the remainder of 1971. On a motion from Max Powell, it had been decided that the Nominating Committee should recommend twelve persons for deacons, with the six receiving the most votes elected to serve. These first six deacons were: Joe Clary, George Jewell, Lawrence Peek, Jack Porter, Roy Smith, and Ted Williams.

Total receipts for 1971 were \$21,108. The 29 families in the church by late 1971 had given an average of \$585 each. The 1972 budget totaled \$32,214, including \$10,000 for the building fund. The pastor pointed out that \$607 would be needed weekly to meet the budget. In addition to lot aid, \$2400 in pastoral aid was to be received from the Baptist State Convention. The percentage to be given to missions through the Cooperative Program was raised to 11%.

During 1972, Sunday evening activities consisted of RA and GA for children and Church Training-type studies for youth and adults. All weekday meetings had to be held in homes - Baptist Women, Acteens, choir practice, and at times a mid-week prayer service. That Easter the custom of a Men's Good Friday Prayer

Breakfast began in the home of Gerry and Joe Campbell. Highlights for the youth included Youth Sunday in March, a Labor Day weekend retreat, and another retreat in December.

While Crabtree had few children, it had an active, talented group of youth; and from the beginning a commitment to youth activities was evident. For the fall of 1972, a seminary student named David Moore was employed at \$25 per week to work with the young people on Sunday mornings and evenings as well as at other times. (David is now with the Division of Youth and Campus Ministries of the Baptist State Convention.) Jim Brown, a student worker with the Convention's Youth Corps, was secured for the following summer. Later, other seminary students employed as youth workers were Priscilla Palmer and her husband and Randy and Jennifer Gibson.

Having a good choir was another early commitment. In fact, some Sunday mornings there were almost as many in the choir as in the congregation! Linda Warren, a Baptist Building employee, served as choir director until she moved away in March, 1972. Then Betty Boggs, another Baptist Building employee, took her place. Those who served as pianist during the years in the school included Ginger Smith, Mrs. Pruden, and Eleanor Aker.

Yet another church member from the Baptist Building staff, Jolene Ivey, helped Alice Tarlton and others organize Baptist Women in the 1971-72 church year. The first meeting was held in the home of Johnnie Grubbs.

Everyone shared in the work to be done as the new church grew and developed. Lois Capps worked as secretary, unpaid, for at least five years. Since there was



no church office, the mimeograph machine stayed at the Capps' home for over three years. There was a keen sense of mutual responsibility. In the early months, attendance averaged 90% of the membership. Vacations were even staggered so that enough workers would always be present. The small group developed that unique closeness which only Christians who have united themselves in commitment to the Lord's tasks can know. Charles says every Sunday was like going to a family reunion!

The years in the school were exciting but not always easy or comfortable. The school custodian, Joseph Crisp, had to open the building each Sunday for the early arrivals. They immediately set to arranging chairs, moving the pulpit into place, unpacking hymnals and teaching materials from boxes, assembling porta-cribs for the nursery.

Worship was held in the auditorium/gym. Since rent was charged according to the number of rooms used, several classes met in the rent-free halls. The teachers' lounge was used for the nursery since it was one of the few spaces always heated or cooled. This was a big "plus" in recruiting nursery workers!

During the energy crisis of 1973, when no heat was left on during weekends, everyone still came and simply kept on their coats. During the summers, everyone who had a room fan was urged to bring it. Occasionally the entire group squeezed into the air-conditioned library, noting carefully where everything was placed so it could be put back after they finished. Joe Clary made a motion at one business meeting, "That on warm Sunday mornings the men be permitted to leave their suit coats at home. The motion was passed by common consent of those men present!"



Group leaving services at J. W. York School.

In spring and fall, things were pleasant enough with the doors and windows open. However, this did permit birds' songs to distract some members from the sermon; and once it permitted a memorable visitor. The Leon Shaw family had walked to the service from their home on Brookhaven Drive. During the sermon, their dog walked in -- all the way up the aisle to where they were sitting. The Shaws were so embarrassed they decided to postpone joining the church that Sunday.

Outings to Umstead Park were a welcome change from the school building and highlighted this period of the church's history. The RAs sometimes had two camp-outs a year - one that is remembered for a night of terrible thunder and drenching rain. Beginning in 1973, one of the lodges was rented for a week each summer. There the children had a combination of day-camping and Vacation Bible School, the youth and



their sponsors stayed all week, and everyone came to cap things off with a Sunday morning worship service and afternoon picnic.

Crabtree attempted to reach its community through a telephone survey led by Ted Williams as Church Outreach Leader and conducted largely by WMU members. Later, a letter and brochure were mailed out. In October, 1972, the church held its first revival with T. L. Cashwell as preacher and Charles Gatwood of the Baptist State Convention's Music Department leading the music. That fall the church's first deacon ordination took place. A second baptismal service, at Ridge Road Baptist Church, and a Christmas cantata rounded out the year of 1972.

Highlights of 1973 included: establishment of a Youth Coordinating Committee and a Christian Life & Public Affairs Committee in response to the threat of "untoward activities in the neighborhood" (a massage parlor), a record attendance of 110 in August, and participation in the Billy Graham Crusade in September.

After the end of the 1972-73 church year, an evaluation study was done. The study's introduction explains, "During the fall of 1970, the Crabtree Valley Baptist Church voted to embark on an annual evaluation of its various ministries and activities as a means of continuous improvement and effectiveness. Actual initiation of the annual evaluation program came about during the 1972-73 church year. Thus this constitutes the first annual evaluation to the church." There followed a summary of each organization's activities, problems, and goals. (Records indicate that few subsequent evaluations were done.)

It is also worth noting that business meetings at

Crabtree were enlivened by what is normally the routine matter of reading the previous minutes. This was due to the extensive vocabulary and dramatic flair of Jack Porter, church clerk from 1972 through 1980. When Charles called on "the good Dr. Porter" to read the minutes, they were often sprinkled with phrases such as: "Various felicitations ensued," "exhortations to positive action," and the "untoward activities" quoted above.

Due to its Cooperative Program giving, Crabtree has long been entitled to the maximum number of messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention; and due to the number of Baptist State Convention employees among its membership, it usually sends its quota. (Twelve State Convention workers belonged to Crabtree within its first ten years, including Cecil Ray, General Secretary-Treasurer, 1976-83.) At the 1973 Southern Baptist Convention in Portland, Oregon, 11% of the church attended!

Highlights of 1974 included: the beginning of the operation of the library, a musical program by students from Gardner-Webb College, and, most important of all, the groundbreaking day. (See the next chapter.) A monthly newsletter was also begun, with Gail Maynard as the first editor. Another young person, Keith Garrard, later served as editor.

The 1974 budget was 18% larger than the previous one, with \$18,000 for the building fund and 12% to be given through the Cooperative Program. Unlike many churches, Crabtree maintained its commitment to missions support during its period of construction. The 1974 budget also lists amounts for six special offerings; if the specified amount was not received in special gifts, the remainder was taken from the bank

account of budget funds. Even when amounts were not listed in the budget but adopted separately as offering goals, this same practice was followed if the bank balance permitted. (This changed with the consolidation of all special state offerings in 1979.)

Highlights of 1975 included: the first two baby dedication services for Richard Ian Smith and Paige Leigh Goodwin, joining in the first Baptist offering for hunger relief taken by any state, and Charles' three-week study at Oxford with a group from Southeastern Seminary. Most important, there was the first service in the new building, as described in the next chapter.

The end of 1975 marked the end of an era for Crabtree, and the beginning of a new one. This chapter has noted many of the activities and developments during the years in the school. Now we go back to tell the story of the church's chief effort through these same years.

\* \* \*

Information for this chapter was gleaned from: Bulletins and Minutes of the Church; History Albums, Volume I (1970-73) and Volume II (1974-75); Tape of C.V.B.C. History Discussion, 1970-75; and Tape of Interview with the Stevensens.

## THE BUILDING YEARS

From the beginning the church dreamed of the day when they would have a place of their own on the lot given to them by the Raleigh Baptist Association. Early on they started having workdays of clearing brush to see what they had and to help them dream.

As soon as Charles arrived, concrete planning began. In February, 1972, an earlier committee was enlarged to twelve members and named the Church Building Planning Committee. Its members were: Rick Boggs (chairman), Wayne Brooks, Allen Campbell, Joe Clary, Johnnie Grubbs, George Jewell, Nellie Kearney, Dixie Porter, Doris Smith, Russell Tarlton, Ted Williams, and Joe Wright.

A savings account had already been opened for accumulating a building fund; \$10,000 was allotted to it in the 1972 budget. At the February business meeting, the pastor presented the "Thirty Pieces of Silver" program. Members were encouraged to put aside in a cloth bag one coin a day for the thirty days before Easter and thus "turn the price of betrayal into a gift of love." Not only did this add to the building fund, but people also felt it added a sense of preparation for Easter. This program was followed for four years.

In May, the Church Building Planning Committee brought a lengthy report on the needs and basic ideas for a building. The Committee had been divided into

three sub-committees: Education, chaired by Joe Clary; Chapel, Music, and Office, chaired by Charles Stevens; and Architectural, chaired by Rick Boggs. The following are excerpts from their reports:

*Education* -- Major attention is being given to the young people (cradle through college). A projection of 322 in five years in this area has been made....A day care program is being provided for....A department concept is being considered....A total of 4922 sq. ft. of educational space is needed....

*Chapel, Music, & Office* -- A chapel with all the dignity and beauty of a larger building should be constructed...(to) be used for several years. Two worship services to be held as soon as needed....Back section of chapel would be built for multi-purposes.... The baptistry would be in this chapel. There would not be one in the large sanctuary when it is built later....Pastor's study would be in this area wherever it could be worked into the plan.

*Architectural* -- The kitchen is to be divided into at least two sections and maybe three....for youth activities....for the day care program....for church activities.

Joe Campbell and Rick Boggs were to meet with Richard Smith, the State Convention's Church Building Planning Consultant, to evaluate architects and narrow the field for interviews by the Committee. Added to the report was the statement, "Someone asked that a church library be included somewhere in the planning. We now own one book and, while that is not a library, it is a beginning."

By June the property had been surveyed. Curtis Gunter, the surveyor, gave back to the church \$50 of his fee. The site was a little less than three acres, hilly, and with a small stream running through the middle. Although this posed some construction problems, excitement swelled whenever church members got together "over on the lot" - as they did in June for a picnic.

In December, 1972, the Church Building Planning Committee recommended that a contract be entered into with the architectural firm of Fishel & Taylor. Almost a year passed before the plans and slides depicting the architect's design were ready for presentation to the church.

When they were presented in November, 1973, it became obvious that some of both the church's desires and the architect's plans exceeded the church's financial ability. A special business meeting was called for November 25. Some members felt these plans should be attempted despite the extra cost; others felt that would be imprudent. After an hour-and-a-half of discussion, a motion was made, "To put the proposed plans into the hands of the Building Finance Committee for consideration and implementation." But action on that motion was postponed until another called session on December 2.

After an hour's discussion on December 2, the previously postponed motion was defeated. Then Roy Smith moved, "That the Planning Committee and the Building Finance Committee consult with the architect to see what might be done to accommodate the church fellowship within the realm of \$150,000."

Members of the Building Finance Committee were: Joe Campbell (chairman), Bob Harrington, Bill Ken-



nedy, Lawrence Peek, and John Small.

By the end of 1973, over \$41,000 had been saved for the building fund; the 1974 budget allocated \$18,000 for it. In addition, the Building Finance Committee said they would try to raise an extra \$20,000 in special pledges. By early January, \$16,401 of special pledges had already been received. Some \$4000 in shares of stock had also been donated, which were later sold by the church.

In a special session on January 6, 1974, Stuart Aker proposed setting up an organ fund. This raised the whole issue of special funds and donations and the need for a committee to handle them. The following month the Gifts Committee was elected: Lois McLean (chairman), Joe Clary, Gail Fathera, Betty Harrington, Gail Maynard, Roy Smith, and Ted Williams.

In the regular business session on January 20, it was voted to issue \$150,000 in bonds for the building. The bonds would be handled by the SERFCO company. Some proposals for revisions in the plans were also approved. In March, Rick Boggs and Joe Campbell were assigned to visit the architect "to urge work to move" on making the needed revisions. In April a new Building Committee was elected to oversee the actual construction. Half of the former Building Planning Committee were retained and their work was acknowledged with gratitude. The new committee's members were: Rick Boggs (chairman), Rudy Barden (vice chairman), Wayne Brooks, Joe Campbell, Joe Clary, Johnnie Grubbs, J. R. Maynard, Lois McLean, Susan Perdue, Doris Smith, Ted Williams, and James Wilson.

Also in April, a proposal from the architect was presented for building the lower level as already drawn and leaving the top level for completion whenever



Group at Groundbreaking ceremony, July 7, 1974.

funds were available. This met with mixed reactions.

In June, Joe Campbell proposed selling \$170,000 in bonds; in August he suggested that \$230,000 might be considered. The church agreed to this as a later possibility but kept the initial bond issue at \$150,000.

Although plans were still far from settled, on July 7, 1974, the church family and guests gathered for one of the fellowship's most joyous occasions -- the Groundbreaking. Everyone brought their own digging tools and all broke ground together. A sign was put up announcing to all that this would be the future home of Crabtree Valley Baptist Church.

In September bids were received - all too high. Rudy Barden reported "meeting with the low-bidding builder and indicated the changes which might be made to bring it in at the approved funding." Since the architect still had not prepared acceptable plans, Bob Harrington moved to suspend further payments to him



“until final resolution of action on his plans...” The Building Committee was to take some action during the week and report back the next Sunday, September 22.

Charles opened that special session with “encouragement that there be sensitiveness to God in all meetings and deliberations of the fellowship....He reminded the fellowship that there is a balance between building a new church edifice either too small or too large.”

Joe Clary moved that the contract with the architect be terminated and that two reputable builders be sought “to propose ways they might build on the same basic concept for \$150,000.” This motion was postponed. Rick Boggs, reluctant to terminate the contract, proposed that the Building Committee continue seeking alternate ways of “providing a building meeting our program within our budget with all space finished.” He also asked that the Building Committee and Building Finance Committee meet together to “prayerfully reconsider exactly how far we should venture out in faith....”

On September 29, through a series of amendments to Joe Clary’s postponed motion, the church approved the following: “That the members of Crabtree Valley Baptist Church authorize Rick Boggs, J. R. Maynard, and Joe Campbell to review the architect’s contract and terminate it as soon as it is to our advantage, and to contact any contractors the Building Committee feels appropriate and ask them to propose how they could provide a building using our basic concept within a budget of \$150,000 with all the space finished. We assume and accept the probability that the building may be shorter or narrower or both in the revised

proposals.”

On October 20, a letter from Fishel & Taylor was read which said in part, “This is in reply to Mr. Boggs’ letter of October 3, 1974, which terminates our agreement. If you wish it, so be it...Please let it be known by all that your action is contrary to the recommendations of this office and to the best interest of Crabtree Valley Baptist Church. Never again will you realize the opportunity you are abandoning.”

Further difficulties arose over the amount the firm felt they were owed. In January, 1975, the church agreed to pay an additional \$981.52, “in order to satisfy all their claims....” This brought the total amount paid to the firm to approximately \$10,000.

On October 27, 1974, the Building Committee recommended J. C. Edwards, Co. to revise the plans and construct the building. With a sense of relief, this was approved. Having come through a difficult time, it is recorded, “Various expressions of dedication, encouragement, and exhortations to positive action were made. The Pastor closed the meeting by calling on various individuals to lead in prayer.”

In November, Mr. Edwards was introduced to the fellowship, and Russell Tarlton was hired by his fellow church members to do the grading work. He said he would begin the next morning!

The contract was eventually raised to \$159,000, adding some needed features to Edwards’ revised plans. An additional \$15,000 in bonds was authorized in the event it were needed for paving, furnishings, and other items. Priorities were set for completing these items as funds became available. (It took a couple of years to complete both this priority list and the selling of all the bonds issued.) The Gifts Committee set up procedures

for receiving donated items and circulated lists of the things needed - furnishings, landscaping materials, and for the kitchen “everything from sink to spoons!” A book acknowledging all donations was later compiled.

Many members donated their labor to clean the site, plant the required groundcover, and do a multitude of little things. Bob Harrington was named as “owner’s agent,” the church’s representative in all dealings with the contractor. He gave untold hours to supervising, discussing, and inspecting the work.

November, 1975, became the time toward which everyone was working. In the last business meeting on the last Sunday in York Elementary School, they established a Building and Grounds Committee, volunteered to take turns cleaning the new building until other arrangements could be made, and thanked the school custodian Joseph Crisp for his years of help “above and beyond the call of duty.” (He even preached for them one Sunday!)

On November 23, 1975, Crabtree Valley Baptist Church worshipped for the first time in a sanctuary of its own. Perhaps it was appropriate that a two-week delay from the original date planned had caused the occasion to fall on Thanksgiving Sunday, for this was truly a day of thanksgiving for the church. The chapel was filled with 262 members and friends. And while Charles preached, the congregation “piously” looked heavenward, watching the lovely sight of snowflakes falling on the skylights!

\* \* \*

## BEING SATISFIED...BEING AFRAID

The Dedication Service for the new building was held on January 18, 1976, followed by an open-house. Dr. Pruden returned for the service. On February 8, the new round baptistry was used for the first time to baptize seven persons.

The membership stood at 183 in January; for almost six months there was at least one addition nearly every Sunday. Growth had always come in spurts, but this was the strongest and longest one Crabtree had yet experienced. Charles explains, "We had a home, we had an identity that we did not have just being in the school."

The long-held dream had become reality. Yet, there was a sense of an unconscious questioning, "What do we do now?" The years from 1976 to 1980 were a period for finding answers to that question.

During the spring semester of 1976, Crabtree had its first seminary intern, Stuart Wilkinson. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary was developing an internship program to give students practical training and experience under the direction of a pastor. Since Crabtree had used seminary students as youth workers, this seemed like another good opportunity to help and be helped at the same time. A few members were a bit concerned that they might wind up with a bearded "hippie-type." Sure enough, Stuart did have a beard, a



First building which was completed in November, 1975.

distinguished gray one, for he had been called to the ministry after years in public education.

After his internship, the church employed Stuart part-time as Minister of Visitation and Outreach to work especially in the apartment complexes around the church building. His teaching skill was also used in various activities. He served the church in this capacity for two years and also worked as chaplain at Crabtree Valley Mall. The church had the privilege of ordaining Stuart Wilkinson on February 13, 1977. In 1978 he finished at Southeastern Seminary and went to a pastorate in Goochland, Virginia.

Highlights of 1976 included: a Church Shower on April 4, given by the church for the church; a revival, May 16-19, with Dr. John Durham, Professor of Old Testament at Southeastern, as speaker; and in June the first Vacation Bible School in the new building. In

July, flooring was laid in the fellowship hall just in time for Anne Porter's wedding. The annual picnic at Umstead came in September, which was, as it turned out, the end of this annual practice. At Thanksgiving, Crabtree joined in a community service at Creedmoor Road Baptist Church. For Christmas, there were programs by both the adult choir and the youth, plus a special Christmas Eve service.

This period brought new activities and new people filling places of responsibility. Baptist Women began a Roundtable book review group, and a coffee-and-fellowship time was started before Sunday School. Sam Garrard followed Betty Boggs as choir director. Cheryl Haag took over as pianist when Eleanor Aker became organist. (The Marse Grant and Tommy Fisher families, respectively, lent a piano and an organ for use until the church could purchase instruments.) Newsletter editors were Ron and Beverly Sharp, Rick and Veronica Jansen, Doris Smith, and Bonnie Wright.

The budget for 1977 was \$58,780. It included \$1800 for Stuart Wilkinson. For the last year, \$1980 was received in pastoral aid from the Baptist State Convention.

On January 20, 1977, Russell Tarlton's funeral was held, the first funeral in the building he had helped to construct. During February, only Sunday morning services met in the church building due to an energy crisis brought on by record cold weather. As yet, the building was not being used a great deal during the week. The pattern of having relatively few weekday meetings, and of having them in homes, did not change rapidly.

Charles felt more use should be made of the facility for community as well as church groups. In May, 1977, he requested permission for Weight Watchers to meet



in the building. This created a great deal of debate since the organization is a profit-making one. In a special session on the matter, Weight Watchers was asked to find other quarters. In July and August, however, Alcoholics Anonymous and the Bible Study Fellowship led by Ann Lotz were both invited to use the building. (The weekly sessions of the Bible Study Fellowship led by Mrs. Lotz, Billy Graham's daughter, met at Hayes Barton; only training sessions for the discussion leaders were held at Crabtree.)

In March, 1977, a Book Shower brought in 86 books for the library. Now there was a little room to expand the library beyond the mobile cabinet it had occupied in the school. Dorrie Dixon began the library; Jean Glosson has been librarian since 1976.

The summer of 1977 was significant for several reasons. The church hired one of its own college students, Gail Maynard, to be the summer youth leader.

A \$12,000 contract had been made for paving the parking lot, lighting it, and constructing a bridge across the creek. Because of this work, Vacation Bible School was cancelled. The most far-reaching effort, however, was a series of Sunday afternoon outreach meetings. The pastor led Sunday School class outreach leaders to organize for better outreach to new people and for "inreach" to inactive members. Other significant ministries also grew out of these meetings - Big A Club, activities at Glenwood Hills Nursing Home and at the Hidden Heights Retirement Home just north of the church.

Big A Club was the dream of Suthell Walker, Baptist Women's Director for North Carolina, and a fairly new church member living in the Royal Hills/Windsor Terrace Apartments. That fall she, Peggy

Wrenn, and Charlene and Susan Ray started this Saturday Bible club for the apartment children. Due to Peggy's ill health and Suthell's required travel, Charlene and Susan became the main leaders and continued the Club for three years. They were assisted by WMU members, including the Acteens for a while. The Club touched more than sixty different children in all. Three of its most faithful members - Eric, Mark, and Ricky Garloff - were later baptized into the church.

The nursing home and retirement home ministries varied in schedule and participation. But some form of ministry at Glenwood Hills Nursing Home has continued to the present.

Some of the other new things that began in 1977 included a Benevolence Offering on fifth Sundays, and the semi-annual visits of the FarmHouse Fraternity. Joe Clary, the fraternity's faculty advisor, asked permission for them to join in the worship service and then hold their initiation at the church. Through the years, the church has helped the fraternity collect food for the needy at Thanksgiving; and, in keeping with their advisor's wishes, the fraternity has helped the church to make its grounds "the most beautiful spot in Raleigh."

That year Crabtree had its first softball team and employed its first paid, part-time secretary, Jan Bertram. She was followed by Margie Sewell, and, later Arlene Sabitsch. Crabtree also ordained its first woman deacon, Joyce Barden. With the 1977-78 church year, Church Training was established for children as well as adults. Charlene Ray, chairman of the Church Training Committee, proposed having choirs and Church Training classes for the children on three Sunday nights a month and mission study on the fourth Sunday. The GAs met one additional time each



month on a weekday. (The next year GA meetings moved to Wednesday night every week. RA was not functioning at this time.)

One more effort that began in 1977 must be noted, the work of the Long-Range Planning Committee. The members elected were: Dick Cothren, David Cromartie, Jean Glosson, Anne Porter Gray, Jack Knox, Maylon Little, Julia Long, Mae Marsh, Regis Modlin, Lawrence Peek, and Ted Williams. Over the next three years, they compiled statistics and opinions about what the church was, who it was, and whom it should be serving in its community. Their first report in December, 1977, set forth five objectives for Crabtree Valley Baptist Church:

1. *To be a covenant fellowship of Christians aware of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in our church life.*
2. *To be a worshipping fellowship in which we are encountered by God's will for our lives.*
3. *To be a witnessing fellowship that carries out the spirit of the Great Commission (Matt. 28: 19-20) in cooperation with the Raleigh Baptist Association, the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, the Southern Baptist Convention, and other churches in areas of mutual concern.*
4. *To be a fellowship of maturing Christians whose growth results in responsible living*
5. *To be a caring fellowship, unselfishly ministering to all persons within the reach of our church and beyond, in cooperation with other groups and organizations.*

Two special relationships with other Baptist churches stand out among the memories of this period in Crabtree's history. The first of these memorable experiences began in June, 1977, as the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina was sponsoring partnerships with Maryland Baptists. Crabtree voted to participate as a partner with the small First Baptist Church of Kent Island, across the bay from Annapolis. In September, Charles and several other pastors from the Raleigh Baptist Association visited the area. Then in May, 1978, a group of church members led by the pastor and the chairman of deacons, Leon Shaw, went for a joint deacon retreat. Later, Kent Island's pastor, Mike Hatfield, came to preach at Crabtree and Charles went there to lead a revival. In the summer of 1978, Ken Boaz, Youth Corps worker, led the youth of Crabtree in doing a Vacation Bible School and a community survey on Kent Island. All these contacts were a mutual blessing.

The second of these special experiences was the month-long pastor exchange between Crabtree and the West Cliff Baptist Church of Bournemouth, England, in July and August of 1978. Early one morning that spring Dr. John Durham of Southeastern Seminary called Charles to ask if he would be interested in an exchange as he had indicated during his earlier study trip to Oxford. Dr. G. Henton Davies, retired principal (president) of Regents Park College in Oxford, had asked Durham to find a replacement for a planned exchange with Pastor Michael Ridgeon of West Cliff Church.

Time was short, and Charles had to agree tentatively after consulting several church members by phone. At the April business meeting, the church enthusiastically



The Ridgeons -- Duncan, Michael, Penny, Gordon, and Amanda.

approved and sent out a letter to all the members to raise \$1500 for the Stevenses' trip.

The exchange extended from July 16 to August 6. The Stevenses arrived one day before the Ridgeons' departure - their only opportunity to visit with each other. They were to exchange not only pulpits but also the use of their houses and cars.

The Ridgeon family included Michael and Penny, their two teenage sons Duncan and Gordon, and a younger daughter named Amanda. If Crabtree was expecting a formal preacher, they were surprised. For Michael opened Sunday morning services with choruses which he accompanied on his accordion! And his children's sermons were sometimes illustrated with magic tricks! His warm personality and likable family won the hearts of Crabtree folks immediately. The Ridgeons joined in everything - Amanda taking part in

a children's pageant on Baptist history, Michael painting the church's sign.

The "language barrier" posed only minor problems such as when Michael noticed puzzled expressions over the "torch" mentioned in his sermon illustration. "Well, what do you call it?" he asked the congregation.

"A flashlight," some replied.

"Flashlight!" he retorted. "That's a silly name!"

And flashlights/torches became a favorite topic of conversation!

He liked some of our churches' ways of doing things -- such as having Sunday School for adults as well as children and our good and regular giving through a budget rather than just for special projects. He wished, too, that West Cliff had a steeple spire of aluminum (he pronounced it a-lu-min-i-um) like some he saw here in Raleigh.

Meanwhile in England, the Stevenses were learning that "biscuits" are cookies and drinking more tea than in all their lives before! Charles had the new experience of preaching from a high, side pulpit, singing lots of stanzas from hymnals without notes, and extending no invitation. Thursday night services featured mission study and other activities on a rotating basis. West Cliff had only about 100 members but usually had a larger attendance since Bournemouth's beaches attract tourists and retirees. The church's large building was made available for housing visiting youth groups in the summer.

Sara, Janel, and Elaine enjoyed the beach, although what the English considered warm weather seemed quite chilly to them. The Stevenses had a ready-made friend and guide in Mary James, a leader in West Cliff Church. She had already met them in the spring and

attended Crabtree on Sunday when she came to visit Dr. and Mrs. Davies, who were at Meredith for a guest lecture series.

Following the four-week exchange period, the Stevenses stayed a little longer to do some sight-seeing in other areas. (The Ridgeons did the same here.) The Stevenses visited the Davies' home in Wales and stayed several days in a "bed and breakfast" farmhouse in the Lake District of northern England. It took them only a day to go from Bournemouth on the southern coast to this northern area, traveling both on narrow country roads and the very fast motorways. But people there were amazed that they would travel so far in one day!

For both families and both churches involved that summer was a most memorable one. Of course, other things took place at Crabtree besides the exchange. An early service was tried but discontinued at summer's end. Ken Boaz, the Youth Corps worker that summer, is remembered not only for his work with the youth but especially because he married Gail Maynard the following year! (He is now pastoring in Wilmington, N. C.).

In the fall of 1978, Dan Ruger served as seminary intern. One of his responsibilities was helping to conduct a children's worship service. Despite his efforts, and those of Mark Munday and other members, this service was eventually discontinued because of discipline problems. However, Mission Friends was then scheduled during Sunday morning worship for the preschool children.

The church bowling league called the "Holy Rollers" began that fall.

Also, Church Training had a major emphasis on committee training, with each committee writing its

job description for church approval. It was hoped that this would enable the church to function efficiently and encourage regular evaluation again.

The year came to a meaningful close with a deaconed service of "dedication and fellowship" on New Year's Eve.

The budget for 1979 was prepared under the Ministry Action Plan, which required committees and organizations to submit written plans for their work along with the amounts requested. Although the new procedure was well received, 1979 was a year of financial difficulty. The budget adopted was \$73,300 -18% higher than 1978 receipts. It seemed obvious that Crabtree would have to conduct a pledge campaign for the first time in its history. February 4 was set as Pledge Sunday; 82% of the budget was pledged that day and eventually over 90%. But receipts continued to fall short of the \$1409 needed weekly. Bank balances had run low for a long time, but so had program needs in the past. Now the church's dangerous financial trend was recognized.

The Budget and Finance Committee, chaired by Tom Andrus, not only instituted the new budget process but also sorted out the status of the many designated funds that had accumulated and set up a "Policy for Spending" to help manage the church's limited funds.

Things improved later in the year, and 1979 ended with 99% of the budget received. In spite of the earlier difficulties, the budget adopted for 1980 raised the church's Cooperative Program gifts to 14%. And an increased emphasis on stewardship was a lasting result of this experience.

In February, 1979, Ted Williams resigned as



treasurer - having served since the church's beginning -because his new work with older adults for the Baptist State Convention would require more travel. David Cromartie took his place as treasurer.

A slump in attendance also concerned Crabtree during 1979. Sunday School Director Joyce Barden kept reporting a declining percentage of enrolled members attending - as low as 39% that summer. This stimulated a greater awareness of the need for outreach, for "inquiring after missing members," and for promotion such as High Attendance Days. As with the finances, attendance began to improve in the fall. In fact, a surge of additions to the church led the deacons, with Tom Edwards as chairman, to sponsor a New Members' Dinner in January of 1980.

Perhaps this time of both financial and numerical difficulty reflected the questioning, the ambivalence, underlying these years since the completion of the building. Charles says that Lois McLean, who died in December, 1979, after a long battle with cancer, had summed up this ambivalence as being satisfied and at the same time being afraid.

Charles recalls, "We were in the building, we were seeing the growth, but what was happening to us was of great concern. Lois was the one who kept putting into proper perspective what most of us were feeling, ...fear of losing something and guilt if we deny the growth which is the very thing that may cause us to lose this intimacy and closeness we have loved so much."

In the course of some Sunday evening sessions of praying, thinking, and dreaming about the church's future, Lois had written a paper telling of her own reluctance to welcome new people. "Suddenly I realized that through a prolonged illness, I received...gifts



too numerous to mention from my church family, including those former 'strangers' and 'intruders' whom I had selfishly told the Lord I didn't want." The events and concerns of 1979 indicate that this was when Crabtree began to face and respond to its inner struggle.

Many good and positive things occurred in 1979. Burdette Robinson, seminary intern for the spring semester, helped with Big A Club, outreach, and the morning worship service. Pam Shipp, the summer Youth Corps worker, led a full schedule for the youth. In honor of West Cliff's 100th anniversary, Crabtree sent a congratulatory message delivered in person by the Tom Edwards family. (They and the Maylon Little family were part of the North Carolina Friendship Force exchange program that year.) The WMU sent money to Mary James for an anniversary flower arrangement; later they enjoyed another visit from her.

In August, the Singles Class held an open-house inviting persons from the nearby apartments. This class also sponsored a churchwide pig-picking in September. Class members were active in Big A Club and in the nursing home and retirement home ministries as well as in other church jobs.

From time to time through the years a church pictorial directory had been discussed. In April, 1979, this was undertaken with a firm named LeMann Associates. After all the work of making the pictures, the firm went bankrupt! Families did receive the photographs they paid for, but the church never got its directories.

More successful projects that spring were a physical fitness workshop organized by new member Sandy McAdams and three pre-Easter services featuring monologues written by Susan Ray, Amy Edwards, and Jack

Porter.

In the fall of 1979, the Kent Island church sent Crabtree a valuable gift - the Lewis Politowicz family, who came to attend Southeastern Seminary. Soon they brought to Crabtree another seminary family, the Wayne Simpsons from Georgia. The church declared both men interns and, unlike other interns, gave them a small "stipend" and an old-fashioned pounding and love offering to help them through their schooling. Lewis served as Nursing Home Ministry Leader and Wayne as Outreach Leader. (The Politowicz family now serves the Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Vernon Hill, Virginia and the Simpsons serve Buckhorn Baptist Church in Como, N. C.)

Although some deficits continued, 1980 seemed to begin with a new sense of enthusiasm. Cecil Ray made a motion that the church set Bold Mission Thrust Goals as part of Southern Baptists' commitment to an unprecedented effort to evangelize the world. In February the following goals were approved for 1980-82:

1. *To increase Sunday School enrollment from 221 to 350, with an average attendance of 200.*

2. *To baptize 20 to 25 persons a year, 1 for every 15 members. (Current ratio was 1 to 28 members, with a church membership of 285.)*

3. *To enlarge the budget 15% each of these two years, to increase Cooperative Program giving by 1% each year and giving to Raleigh Baptist Association by 1/4% each year.*

Four task forces were set up to list specific goals in the areas of Sunday School, Witnessing, Missions

Education and Involvement, and Giving. A Bold Missions Commitment Sunday was observed on June 1.

For the youth there were both good and bad experiences that year. Don and Chandra Hester, unpaid youth leaders for about two years, resigned in January. As in a case several years earlier, disagreement had arisen over their use of non-Southern Baptist materials and their doctrinal positions. This episode caused division among both young people and adults. Good experiences, on the other hand, included hearing Chris Elkins, a former Moonie, speak during Youth Week in February and having Miss Terry Huneycutt as summer youth worker.

From April 13 through 16, Dr. Malcolm Tolbert, professor at Southeastern Seminary, led Crabtree in a revival. He not only inspired the church but won their hearts as well. In May, Dan Ruger returned to Crabtree to be ordained in preparation for returning to his native New York to work. (At present he is a Navy Chaplain.)

Crabtree seemed to be looking toward the future --neither as satisfied nor as afraid as it had been. Yet a major change in that future was about to occur.

\* \* \*

Information for this chapter was gleaned from: Bulletins and Newsletters; Minutes of the Church; History Albums, Volumes III, IV, V, and VI; and Tape of the Interview with the Stevensens.

## TRANSITION — A NEW VOICE, NEW DIRECTIONS

At the close of the morning worship service on June 22, 1980, Charles Stevens resigned as pastor, saying the time had come for a new voice, for new directions for himself and the church. He had accepted a call to become pastor of First Baptist Church, Kernersville, N. C.

In the business meeting on July 20, his resignation was accepted with regret. Appreciation was expressed in a resolution and poem written by Jack Porter, followed by a standing ovation. The resolution read in part, "As the initial pastorate of Crabtree Valley Baptist Church, yours placed its immortal stamp upon whatever historical record the church is to have." The poem's first verse and conclusion read:

*We seek in prayerful words, dear friends  
Our heart's true wish to send you,  
That you may know that, far or near,  
Our living thoughts attend you.  
...Hail and farewell!*

On July 27, the Stevenses were bid farewell with an ice cream social -- Crabtree's favorite way of honoring special people and occasions. August 3 was Charles' last Sunday with the church he had pastored for almost nine years. That day included a baby dedication service

for Robert Best and the ordination of Lewis Politowicz.

Summer activities continued as the initial shock settled in. Repercussions multiplied rapidly. There was a division over whether the deacons or the Nominating Committee should nominate the Pastor Search Committee. It was agreed that both groups should confer. Thus a committee acceptable to all was nominated and elected in August, consisting of: Joe Clary (chairman), Joyce Barden, Ed Capps, Bob Crumpler and Beulah Peek. Two men were nominated for moderator; as a result of voting by secret ballot, the chairman of deacons, Tom Edwards, was elected.

In July a Pulpit Supply Committee had been elected. However, their work was short, because in September Dr. Malcolm Tolbert was happily accepted as interim pastor. Also in July, the church had approved the recommendation of a special committee to employ a part-time Minister of Music and Youth. In August seminary student Tom Carringer was recommended for this new position, and he began serving the first Sunday in September. The leadership of these two men provided reassurance and even some degree of progress during the transition period.

This was a period of sorting out some differences of opinion in order to set the direction the church wanted to follow under a new pastor. The Pastor Search Committee circulated a long and detailed questionnaire on characteristics desired in a new pastor. Activities that the church wanted to continue or begin were discussed. And the long-standing issue of the role of deacons surfaced for open discussion.

Some felt the deacons should have more of a decision-making role, while Charles and others had emphasized the role of ministry. Dr. Tolbert led a

lengthy churchwide discussion on the matter one Sunday evening in October. Although no concrete decisions were made, a consensus began to develop that a blend of both roles is desirable - that deacons should assist the pastor in ministering to the fellowship and should also lead and advise, but not control, the church in making decisions.

It was a period of taking stock. Although Crabtree had paid little attention to records, the November newsletter did contain statistics for the 1979-80 church year. It listed: 11 baptisms, 22 new members, 19 lost, for a total membership of 281; 238 enrolled in Sunday School with an average attendance of 121; 119 enrolled in Church Training with an average attendance of 46. For the new church year, a second Men's Class was organized, and the long-struggling College and Career Class suddenly started to boom. Classes were meeting in almost every available space.



Harry E. Poovey, pastor since May, 1981.



Christmas was celebrated with Crabtree's first Chrismon Tree. And 1980 ended with the Pastor Search Committee busy at their task. Just like the church's first pulpit committee, members of this one wondered how they would know when they found the right man to be Crabtree's second pastor. Again, God's Spirit gave them the assurance of "just knowing" when they found Harry Poovey. His coming in May, 1981, marks a new period in the history of Crabtree Valley Baptist Church - a story that I will leave for a later historian to tell.

\* \* \*

Friendliness...Closeness...Caring...Commitment to missions...Generosity for others' needs...Excitement...Ability to dream...Willingness to be different...Creative...Seeing the church as people, not a building...

These are a few words and phrases that members of Crabtree Valley Baptist Church mention as characteristics of their church family.

Crabtree loves to eat, fellowship, and have fun together. They enjoy church suppers, men's breakfasts and women's luncheons, picnics, and homemade ice cream whenever possible!

Crabtree cares in practical ways. For example, the women have often organized themselves to carry meals to families in need, even for extended periods in a few cases. A benevolence fund meets emergency needs for members, local residents, and occasional strangers. And no one can say how many things members do individually to help persons within and beyond the fellowship.

Crabtree shares in the preparation process of new ministers and others in church-related vocations. These include youth workers, seminary interns, and other seminary students who have been part of the



church. The church has ordained three men to the ministry and licensed one, Jack Porter. Already the church has produced two "home-grown" ministers - Ginger Smith Graves, Minister of Music & Youth at St John's Baptist Church in Raleigh, and Gail Maynard Boaz, pastor's wife at Olivet Baptist Church in Wilmington, N. C. Although Kaye Barden Morrison was never a member of Crabtree, the church takes pride in her as she and her husband serve as missionaries in the Ivory Coast. It was at Crabtree that Charles Morrison first made public his call to foreign missions.

These characteristics that Crabtree has always cherished and nurtured remain unchanged. But many changes have come since 1980. Change is a necessary part of growing and maturing. In an interview with Charles and Sara Stevens in 1984, Charles spoke of the need for change:

*I think...that after nine years, going on ten years, to say maybe what we need is some new direction...(is the only thing that) would have caused us even to talk to Kernersville Church...We really loved Raleigh and Crabtree - still do. Some of the greatest experiences we've ever had...were at Crabtree...I think our leaving was probably a timely move, for the church to sort of regroup and decide on which direction it needed to go. And now as I hear, under Harry Poovey's leadership, it's going in that direction.*

\* \* \*

Information in this chapter came from: Bulletins and Newsletters; Minutes of the Church; History Album Volume VI; and Tape of Interview with the Stevenses.

## APPENDIX

*(Since some types of records for 1970-80 are incomplete, some of the following lists and tables are incomplete and may be incorrect. We regret any omission or error that appears in these pages despite our best efforts.)*

Charter Members

Baptisms

Marriages of Church Members

Church Members Deceased

Deacons Who Have Served the Church

Heads of Organizations & Programs, Chairmen of  
Deacons

Church Membership, Program Enrollments and  
Attendance

Financial Information

## CHARTER MEMBERS

Wayne Brooks

Todd Jewell

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(Correction for page 47)

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These additional persons became  
Charter Members during the month-  
long charter membership period:

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April 11 — Marion Kinlaw

ggs

Leona Kinlaw

ms

ms

April 18 — Joe B. Campbell

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Geraldean Campbell

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Allen Campbell

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Roger Campbell

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Jr.

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(\* This name does not appear on the list of signatures from April 4, 1971. Charter membership was left open for a month; on May 2, Ron Jeffers became the last charter member.)

## BAPTISMS

(An \* indicates a person over 18. Place of baptism is Crabtree Valley Baptist Church unless stated otherwise.)

June 6, 1971 --

(Hayes Barton Baptist Church) --

Wayne Brooks \*

Steve Brooks

Mark Jeffers

Philip Jewell

Shirley Johnson \*

Kimberly Powell

(1974 ?) --

(Place Uncertain) --

Kevin Jackson

Mark Jackson

(1975 ?) --

(Place Uncertain) --

Hien Williams

Hoa Williams

December 17, 1972 --

(Ridge Road Baptist Church) --

Karl Andrus

Anne Barden

Cheryl Brooks

Ramona Maynard

February 8, 1976 --

Eddie Capps

Jennifer Capps

W. T. Fisher, Jr. \*

Pamela Parrish

Kelly Sharp

Stephanie Shifflett

Kevin Weidner

September 16, 1973 --

(Ridge Road Baptist Church) --

Heidi Gentry

Louanne Maynard

Beth Wright

April 11, 1976 --

David Cromartie \*

Thomas Elliott, Jr.

Johnny Fisher

Lisa Hodges \*

Vickie Stanley \*

September 15, 1974 --

(Ridge Road Baptist Church) --

Jimmy Boyette \*

Kelly Evans

Tracy Smith

June 26, 1976 --

Hugh McLean

Ramona Tarlton \*

(1976 ?) --

Sharon Pruitt \*  
 Betsy Shaw  
 Julia Long \*

October 9, 1977 --

Mac McLean  
 Gene Shelton \*

(1977 ?) --

Sharon Coltrane Kilkelly \*

1978 --

(Associational letter lists 3.

We do not know which  
 ones these were.)

(1979 ?) --

Mary Cassie Shaw  
 Jodi Wright

September 30, 1979 --

George Norman Fisher, Jr.  
 Pam Fisher  
 Joy Barksdale Jones \*  
 Roy Nelson Parrott, Jr.  
 Lisa Politowicz  
 Leonard Politowicz  
 Leroy Politowicz  
 Jackie W. Rice \*  
 Chad Simpson  
 Craig Simpson  
 Denise Simpson

July 13, 1980 --

Shannon Baxley  
 Bona Dea Constantino \*  
 Jeff Cothren  
 Holli Dail  
 Lewis Politowicz, Jr.  
 Elaine Stevens  
 Janel Stevens

October 19, 1980 --

Barbara Best \*  
 Mark Garloff  
 Ricky Garloff

November 1, 1981 --

Matthew Crumpler  
 Missy McKnight

February 21, 1982 --

Ruth Eisenblatter  
 Kellie Lynn  
 James Mashburn \*  
 Carmisha (Kay) McKnight \*

March 28, 1982 --

Paula Gildner  
 Cryssie Lynn  
 Natalie Pittman

April 11, 1982 --

Ashley Edmonds  
 Eric Garloff  
 Kevin Isenhour

- June 27, 1982 --  
 Karla Baxley
- August 8, 1982 --  
 Wanda Jones
- September 19, 1982 --  
 Lamar Owens \*  
 Mike Parrott  
 Ricky Shepherd
- January 16, 1983 --  
 Bill Gibson \*  
 Tracy Stewart
- February 20, 1983 --  
 Deborah Driver  
 Allen Lowrance  
 Bryan Lowrance  
 Bob Narron \*
- June 5, 1983 --  
 Renee Dixon  
 Julie Rice  
 Linda Wheeler \*
- August 21, 1983 --  
 Leslie Shelton
- January 22, 1984 --  
 Jennifer Jendro
- April 29, 1984 --  
 Michael Bullard  
 Tonya Bullard  
 Brian Constantino
- Tony Constantino  
 Mike Constantino\*  
 Jason Mullinex  
 Darla Owens \*  
 Dottie Ray \*  
 Howard Ray \*
- May 27, 1984 --  
 Jennifer Critcher  
 Glenda Fisher \*  
 Shelly McChesney \*  
 Tom Terry \*
- August 26, 1984 --  
 Tommy Brinley  
 Philip Rumble \*  
 Yvonne Suthers \*
- September 30, 1984 --  
 Don Crissman \*
- December 30, 1984 --  
 Angela Boan \*  
 Frances Hollifield \*  
 Bob Ray \*
- February 24, 1985 --  
 Selina Crissman  
 Kim Stephens
- April 21, 1985 --  
 Liz Barnett  
 Connie Coats  
 Kelli Edwards  
 Kate Patrick

## MARRIAGES OF CHURCH MEMBERS

(Only persons who were full church members at the time of their marriage are included. The member's name is listed first. An \* indicates ceremony performed at Crabtree Valley Baptist Church.)

- March 17, 1973 Hilliard Kearney to Susan McMillan  
(she joined later)
- Jan. 5, 1974 Louise Gargis to Willis Strickland  
(he joined later)
- Feb. ?, 1974 Mike Parrish to Sandra Stedwick
- May 31, 1975 Beth Blake to Matthew Miller
- March 26, 1976 Betty Baker to James Mashburn  
(he joined later)
- April 3, 1976 Ramona McMahan to William Tarlton\*  
(both joined same month as wedding)
- May 29, 1976 Allen Campbell to Dana Brown
- July 3, 1976 Anne Porter to Lewis Gray\*
- June 25, 1977 Margaret Kerley to Herbert Frazier\*  
(both members)
- Nov. 5, 1977 Lan Nguyen to Ramond Strickland\*
- June 11, 1978 Charles E. Ritter to Ginger Ann Gay
- July 1, 1978 Sharon C. Kilkelly to Terrence Rogers\*
- June 3, 1979 Gail Maynard to Kenneth Boaz\*
- ? ,1979 Linda Cobb-Erdmann to Jack Lewis\*  
(both members)
- Dec. 29, 1979 Mark Jeffers to Nanette Coulson\*
- July 19, 1980 Greg Small to Janet Atherton
- Dec. 20, 1980 Melissa Little to Emmett Jones
- Feb. 14, 1981 Ed McLean to Mai Hovey
- ? Pamela Parrish to David Starr



Sept. 19, 1981	Pamela Garrard to Randal Jay Keatts*
July 17, 1982	Cheryl Haag to Randall Walker (he joined later)
July 31, 1982	Susan Perdue to Jeffrey Paul Herrin*
Aug. 7, 1982	Roy Smith, Jr. to Martha Hancock
July 23, 1983	Kent Clary to Crystal Trexler
Oct. 9, 1983	Margaret Ervin to Craig Ramsdell*
April 28, 1984	Louise Ellington to Don Crissman* (he joined later)
July 9, 1984	Ronald Jeffers to Shirley Troop
July 28, 1984	Glenda Fisher to Tom Terry* (both members)
Sept. 22, 1984	Ramona Maynard to Jack Metts
Nov. 26, 1984	Greg Dail to Nancy Crutchfield*
Dec. 21, 1984	Joy Knox to James Fairchild
Jan 6, 1985	Frances Hollifield to Robert Ray* (both members)

## CHURCH MEMBERS DECEASED

(Only persons who were church members at the time of their death are listed. An \* indicates funeral service held at Crabtree Valley Baptist Church.)

May 31, 1973	Mrs. Kathryn Wilder
Jan. 20, 1977	Russell Tarlton*
Dec. 13, 1979	Mrs. Lois McLean*
Feb. 2, 1980	Claudius Irby
Sept. 28, 1980	Mrs. Mildred Williams
Feb. 19, 1981	W. S. (Buck) Privette*
Sept. 29, 1983	Mrs. Nellie Kearney*
July 15, 1984	Robert Leon Shaw*
April 15, 1985	Graham Musselwhite

## DEACONS WHO HAVE SERVED THE CHURCH

(An \* indicates a person ordained by Crabtree Valley Baptist Church.)

Joe Clary  
 George Jewell  
 Lawrence Peek  
 Jack Porter  
 Roy Smith  
 Ted Williams  
 Rick Boggs\*  
 Joe Campbell  
 Sam Garrard  
 J. R. Maynard  
 Rudy Barden  
 Tom Edwards  
 Bob Harrington  
 Wayne Brooks\*  
 Leon Shaw  
 Bob Crumpler\*  
 Joyce Barden\*

Harvey Scaggs  
 Ed McLean\*  
 Bill Baxley\*  
 Bill Preslar  
 Art Dail\*  
 Johnnie Grubbs  
 Jack Knox\*  
 Jim Bullard\*  
 Dick Cothren\*  
 Ed Capps\*  
 Ben Best\*  
 John Durden  
 Chuck Gregory  
 Cecil Ray  
 Hal Lowrance\*  
 Betty Knox\*  
 Maylon Little

## HEADS OF ORGANIZATIONS &amp; PROGRAMS, CHAIRMEN OF DEACONS

YEAR ELECTED	SUNDAY SCHOOL DIRECTOR	CHURCH TRAINING DIRECTOR	U. N. U. DIRECTOR	BROTHERHOOD/RA DIRECTOR	MUSIC DIRECTOR	YOUTH DIRECTOR	CHAIRMAN OF DEACONS
1971	Wayne Brooks	Wayne Iyner	Doris Smith	? (RA)	Linda Warren	DAVID MOORE (4)	Joe Clary
1972	"	"	"	? (RA)	Betty Boggs	Jim Brown (S)	"
1973	"	Roy Smith *	"	? (RA)	"	RANDY & JENNI-FER GIBSON (9)	"
1974	"	"	Dixie Porter	? (RA)	"	PRISCILLA PALMER (9)	Tom Edwards
1975	"	"	Gerry Campbell	Ben Best (RA)	"	"	"
1976	"	"	"	"	"	"	"
1977	Joyce Barden	Charlene Ray *	Sue Edwards	"	San Garrard	GAIL HAYWARD (S)	Leon Shaw
1978	"	"	"	"	"	Ken Boaz (S)	"
1979	Dick Cothren	"	Louise Shore	"	"	Pat Shipp (S)	Tom Edwards
1980	"	"	"	"	TON CARRINGER	Terry Honeycutt (S)	"
1981	Betty Knox	"	"	Roy Smith	"	"	Joe Clary
1982	"	Bebbie Wade	Bonnie Wright	"	"	"	John Burden
1983	"	Joyce Gregory	"	Ed Capps	RANDY BARNES	"	Chuck Gregory
1984	"	Brenda Lourance	"	"	LOUISE WILSON (5)	Bright Bechtold (S)	Maylon Little
					JEFF PRICE	JEFF PRICE	

\* Chairman of Church Training Committee.

ALL COPS denotes a paid worker.

A number ( ) indicates number of months served by a temporary worker; and (S) means a summer worker.

# CHURCH MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAM ENROLLMENTS AND ATTENDANCE

(Taken from Associational Records)

Year	Baptisms	Church Membership Other Additions Total	Sunday School Enroll- ment	Average Attendance	Church Training Enroll- ment	Average Attendance	U.M.U. Enroll- ment	Brother- hood Enrollment	Music Enroll- ment	V.B.S. Enroll- ment
1971	6 *	67	69 ?	78	50	37	33 -	12	13	12 ***
1972	4	31	106	106	88	32	28	25	12	7
1973	2	28	130	117	55	59 ?	59 ?	46	8	35
1974	3	22	148	150	85	59 ?	59 ?	51	13	46
1975	2	14	159	177	70	79	48	53	17	?
1976	19	47	216	245	122	88	48	53	7	69
1977	3	21	221	235	93	77	45	46	3	39
1978	3	26	239	242	97	67	49	40	-- ****	45
1979	10	31	267	221	100	101	44	53	-- ****	30
1980	11	22	281	241	121	119	46	70	-- ****	60
1981	2	35	309	287	111	124	48	72	-- ****	37
1982	17	37	338	292	139	122 ?	?	63	38	212
1983	10	45	388	401	165	75 ?	?	76	63	164
1984	18	41	439	440	186	158 ?	?	76	73	226
									91	224

\*Associational records list 3, but 6 is correct. Other discrepancies have not been reconciled.

\*\*Children attended V.B.S. at Hayes Barton Baptist Church in 1971; no V.B.S. in 1977 because of paving parking lot.

\*\*\*\*RA discontinued for three years; Baptist Men not begun until 1981.

# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

(Taken Primarily from Associational Records)

Year	Budget	Total Receipts	Local Expenditures	Cooperative Program	Associational Missions	Other Mission Causes	Debt	Value of Property
1971	\$ 15,000 *	\$10,585	\$ 3,074 ?	\$1,572 (10\$)	\$ 314 (2\$)	\$ 150	\$ 0	\$ 30,000
1972	32,214 *	28,290	17,478	2,357 (11\$)	552 (2\$)	1,201	-	30,000
1973	39,500 -	41,224	22,996	3,481 (11.5\$)	765 (2\$)	2,621	0	75,000
1974	46,710 -	56,055	31,329	3,875 (12\$)	800 (2\$)	1,428	0	75,000
1975	52,000 -	54,801	157,283 **	4,888 (12\$)	965 (2\$)	1,547	147,000	300,000
1976	56,800 -	68,129	150,615 **	6,158 (12\$)	1,026 (2\$)	963	138,044	325,000
1977	58,780 -	67,390	49,527	6,353 (13\$)	1,059 (2\$)	4,892 ****	130,000	350,000
1978	70,600 -	72,976	72,542	7,796 (13\$)	1,218 (2\$)	3,886	125,681	400,000
1979	73,300	78,319	75,679	9,086 (13\$)	1,697 (2\$)	4,001	104,271	425,000
1980	79,700 -	90,816	73,930	10,908 (14\$)	1,877 (2.5\$)	4,220	138,490 ?	450,000
1981	91,700 -	90,370	60,964 ***	11,743 (15\$)	3,245 (3\$)	4,932	116,982	450,000
1982	102,940 *	122,185	92,742	16,144 (15\$)	3,229 (3\$)	5,888	125,000	400,000 ?
1983	129,874	137,615	98,483	19,026 (16\$)	3,642 (3\$)	8,361	95,078	400,000 ?
1984	151,673	236,465	140,682	22,342 (16.5\$)	4,518 (3\$)	7,737	176,000	(Not given)

† \* means receipts exceeded budget; a - means less than 98% of budget received.

\*\* Includes building expenditures

\*\*\* Pastor's salary paid only half the year

\*\*\*\* Gifts greatly increased to State Missions offering for special effort to pay off Convention debts.













